including Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, Nagpur, Nasik, Thane and Chandrapur under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (NAAQM) established in the country. The monitoring results for Nagpur indicate that levels of Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) were within the stipulated norms whereas the levels of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) are slightly on higher side.

(d) The steps taken to control air pollution in and around Nagpur include the following:

(i) Introduction of unleaded petrol;

(ii) Monitoring of ambient air quality in and around Nagpur city;

(iii) Road Transport Office of Nagpur has provided one mobile van for checking vehicular pollution.

(iv) Private Vehicular checking centres have been established and authorized to issue Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates to vehicles.

(v) Special drives are taken up for checking of vehicles for pollution control.

Hunger free India

*197. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn on World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation Research Foundation's planned meeting on road map for hunger free India by 2007; and

(b) the issues that are likely to be taken up in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) A 'Consultation' on "Towards Hunger-Free India - countdown from 2007" was jointly organized by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Food Programme on 4th and 5th April, 2003.

(b) The issues under discussion were accelerated alleviation of poverty and eradication of food insecurity in this country.

National River conservation plan

*198. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has pointed out that there was need to implement the river conservation programme with a greater sense of urgency and commitment as the availability of fresh water has dipped due to man-made pollution;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has decided to prioritise the approved works under the National River Conservation Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the steps, the Prime Minister has asked his Ministry to take in regard to river pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Based on the pollution load assessment, the works under the National River Conservation Plan has been taken in 157 towns along 31 polluted stretches of major rivers in 18 States. 782 projects amounting to Rs. 3081.89 crores have been sanctioned out of which 401 projects have been completed and the others are at various stages of implementation.

(c) The Prime Minister asked to take various steps *inter alia*; as under:

- The State Governments need to evolve strategies for making the programme more sustainable by way of capacity building of the local bodies and enhancement of their revenue.
- To make these programmes more effective in terms of cost, impact and outreach, an integrated approach covering all aspects of river pollution as well as urban sanitation & waste management needs to be adopted by State Govts.
- There is need to strengthen the institutional arrangement in the local bodies for speedy implementation and proper monitoring of the projects.